

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 ARA-10 EA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12
MCT-01 HA-05 TRSE-00 /131 W
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R 101634Z NOV 77
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7248
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY NOUACHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
USMISSION GENEVA
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 4524

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PORG, UNGA, SS
SUBJ: POLISARIO STATEMENT BEFORE FOURTH COMMITTEE

REF: USUN 4446 ((NOTAL); ALGIERS 2842

SUMMARY: IN SECOND APPEARANCE BEFORE UNGA'S FOURTH COMMITTEE,
POLISARIO REP MANSUR OMAR EXPLAINED SAHARA'S HISTORY OF
INDEPENDENCE FROM MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA, LAID BLAME FOR
CONTINUED POSTPONEMENT OF OAU SUMMIT ON MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA,
ATTACKED GABON FOR PROHIBITING POLISARIO DELEGATES FROM
ATTENDING OAU LIBREVILLE SUMMIT, AND MADE LENGTHY ATTACK ON
FRENCH FOR THEIR MILITARY SUPPORT OF MAURITANIA AND MOROCCO.
HE CONDEMNED FRENCH BUILDUP IN REGION AND INTIMATED FRENCH
USING HOSTAGE QUESTION AS PRETEXT FOR WIDENING ITS
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INVOLVEMENT. GOF REP REFUTED CHARGE IN ENSURING RIGHT OF
REPLY. POLISARIO STATEMENT SUPPORTS OBSERVATION ALGIERS
2842 THAT POLISARIO IS INTERESTED IN SUING HOSTAGE ISSUE
TO PUBLICIZE ITS CAUSE. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING UNGA'S FOURTH COMMITTEE DEBATE ON SAHARAN QUESTION.
CHAIRMAN MOVED THAT POLISRAIO REPRESENTATIVE GAIN BE

GIVEN FLOOR. MOROCCAN REP OBJECTED ON GROUNDS THAT POLISARIO NOT UN OR OAU RECOGNIZED LIBERATION MOVEMENT. MAURITANIAN REP OBJECTED ON SAME GROUNDS AND ALSO ON GROUNDS THAT IT WAS NOT ACCEPTED PRACTICE FOR COMMITTEE TO HEAR PETITIONER SEVERAL TIMES IN COURSE OF DEBATE. FOLLOWING OBJECTIONS, CHAIRMAN GRANTED FLOOR TO POLISARIO SPOKESMAN MANSUR OMAR.

2. POLISARIO REP BEGAN LENGTHY PRESENTATION BY NOTING HISTORICAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS OF SAHARAN PEOPLE INCLUDING ASSMBLY AND ARMY. HE THEN SUPPORTED ICJ FINDING THAT SAHARAN PEOPLE HAD NEVER BEEN SUBJECTED TO MOROCCAN OR MAURITANIAN SOVEREIGNTY AND GAVE NUMEROUS EXAMPLES OF 18TH, 19TH, AND 20TH CENTURY AGREEMENTS TO SUPPORT HIS CONTENTION. HE CLAIMED SAHARAN PEOPLE CONSTITUTED SEPARATE HISTORIC ENTITY AND CITED NUMEROUS HISTORICAL WORKS TO THAT EFFECT.

3. POLISARIO REP THEN SPOKE OF CONTRADICITION BETWEEN PRESENT MAURITANIAN POSITION IN CONTRAST TO ITS PRE-1975 RECOGNITION OF POLISARIO. HE STATED EARLIER RECOGNITION WAS SIMPLE TOOL USED BY MAURITIAN GOVERNMENT TO EXTRACT CONCESSIONS FROM SPANISH. HE ATTACKED MAURITANIAN AND MOROCCAN COOPERATION WITH SPANISH AUTHORITIES PRIOR TO 1975, NOTING THAT BOTH NATIONS HAD AIDED SPAIN IN SUPRESSING POLISARIO. SPANISH ALSO CAME IN FOR FURTHER CRITICISM FOR THEIR SELOUT AT MADRID AND BETRAYAL OF SAHARAN PEOPLE.

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4. MANSUR STATED THAT OAU SPECIAL UMMIT HAD NOT BEEN HELD BECAUSE OF ARROGANT ATTITUDE OF THOSE WHO NOW PRETENDED TO SUPPORT IT. MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA, WITH COMPLICITY OF OTHERS, HAD PREVENTED CONVENING OF SUMMIT. BOTH GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL BUREAU OF GABON WERE ATTACKED FOR GABONESE REFUSAL TO ALLOW POISARIO REPS TO ATTEND LIBREVILLE SUMMIT, BUT POLISARIO REP OPENLY REFUSED TO LAY BLAME AT FEET OF PRESIDENT BONGO. HE ALSO ATTACKED ATTITUDE OF BOTH MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA FOR THEIR OBJECTION TO THE PARTICIPATION OF SAHARAN PEOPLE (READ POLISARIO) AT ANY OAU SUMMIT.

5. MANSUR THEN NOTED EXPANDING NATURE OF SAHARAN CONFLICT WITH EXPECTED OPEN INTERVENTION BY NON-AFRICAN POWER. WE ACCUSED FRANCE OF SENDING TROOPS TO MAURITANIA TO HELP EXTERMINATE SAHARAN PEOPLE UNDER PRETEXT OF DEFENDING FRENCH CITIZENS. POLISZRIO DID NOT SPECIFICALLY AIM AT FRENCH CITIZENS. HE SAID, NOR WOULD FRONT "USE" THEM. POLISARIO HAD ALWYS CALLED FOR FOREIGNERS TO AVOID THEATRE OF COMBAT. FRENCH COMPLAINED ABOUT TAKING OF HOSTAGES, WHILE ENTIRE SAHARAN PEOPLE BEING HELD HOSTAGE WITH FRENCH ASSISTANCE.

6. MANSUR THEN NOTED EXTENSIVE FRENCH MILITARY AND MILITARY SUPPORT ROLE IN MAURITANIA. FRENCH MILITARY DISGUISED AS TECHNICIANS HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN WAR FOR SOME TIME, HE SAID, NOTING THAT OVER 200 FRENCH SOLDIERS WERE ALREADY SERVING IN MAURITANIA. HE ALSO CLAIMED THESE FORCES HAD BEEN RECENTLY AUGMENTED. AFTER EXTENSIVE EXPOSE OF FRENCH ROLE IN MAURITANIA, MANSUR ATTACKED FRENCH MILITARY SUPPORT FOR MOROCCO. FRENCH NAPALM, HE SAID, WAS USED BY MOROCCAN AIRFORCE IN INDISCRIMINATE ATTACKS AGAINST SAHARAN PEOPLE. FRENCH MILITARY SUPPORT WAS NOW REACHING CLIMAX WITH DIRECT PARTICIPATION IN SAHARA.

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R 101634Z NOV 77
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7249
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
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7. POLISARIO REP NOTED SUPPORT OF RENCH SOCIALIST PARTY AND FRANCOIS MITTERAND AFOR POLISARIO CAUSE AS WELL AS SUPPORT OF FRENCH UNIONS AND FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY. HE CALLED ON FRENCH PEOPLE AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO PLACE PRESSURE ON GOF TO DIVERT IT FROM ITS PRESENT INTERVENTIONIST COURSE.

8. MANSUR CLOSED WITH CALL FOR FULL UN INVOLVEMENT AND COMMITMENT TO FIND SOLUTION, NOTING THAT THIS WAS THIRD

UNGA TO CONSIDER SAHARAN QUESTION SINCE THE AGGRESSION OF
RABAT AND NOUAKCHOTT.

9. FRENCH REP, IN RIGHT OF REPLY, AGAIN EXPRESSED GOF
CONCERN OVER FRENCH HOSTAGES AND REPEATED GISCARD STATEMENT
THAT GOF WOULD TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO INSURE THEIR
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RELEASE. GOF DEMAND, HE STATED, WAS ON PURE HUMAN RIGHTS
GROUNDS AND GOF WAS NOT USING ISSUE TO COVER FRENCH
INTERVENTION.

COMMENT: POLISARIO STATEMENT APPEARED DESIGNED TO GAIN
MAXIMUM PUBLIC EXPOSURE FOR POLISARIO CAUSE, PARTICULARLY
IN FRANCE. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT FRENCH AMBASSADOR DE
COMMUNE'S VIEW (ALGERIS 2842) THAT POLISARIO INTENDS TO USE
HOSTAGE ISSUE FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES CORRECT.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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